

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

STATE: Illinois  
 COUNTY: Cook  
 FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 ENTRY DATE

1. NAME  
 COMMON: South Shore Country Club  
 AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION  
 STREET AND NUMBER: 71st Street and South Shore Drive  
 CITY OR TOWN: Chicago  
 STATE: Illinois CODE: 17  
 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 1st-Congressman Ralph Metcalfe  
 COUNTY: Cook CODE: 031

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Commons
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	<u>Building empty, not in use</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY  
 OWNER'S NAME: Public Building Commission of Chicago (for Chicago Park District)  
 STREET AND NUMBER: Chicago Civic Center  
 CITY OR TOWN: Chicago STATE: Illinois CODE: 17

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION  
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Cook County Recorder of Deeds  
 STREET AND NUMBER: County Building, 118 North Clark Street  
 CITY OR TOWN: Chicago STATE: Illinois CODE: 17

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS  
 TITLE OF SURVEY: Illinois Historic Structures Survey  
 DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Glessner House,  
 STREET AND NUMBER: 1800 South Prairie Avenue  
 CITY OR TOWN: Chicago STATE: Illinois CODE: 17

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## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

## DESCRIPTION

The building is constructed of reinforced concrete columns and girders, filled in with hollow tile and finished on the outside with cement stucco. The roof is shingled with clay tile, except for the four towers which are asphalt shingles.

The entire building, over 500 feet in length, is divided into three parts: the central section, a ballroom wing and a dining room wing. The central part, five stories high, is 192 by 96 feet. It contains on the west, the main entrance and on the east, the solarium (74 by 62 feet), a one-story pavilion with large windows on three sides facing Lake Michigan. It also has on the main floor to the north, the men's buffet and smoking room, and on the south side, the card room (remodeled and used as a bar room in recent years).

The middle of the center section is open to the mezzanine story. The latter contains a billiard room, writing room, library, club offices and miscellaneous public rooms. The upper three floors contain 90 sleeping rooms, each with bath. The basement is occupied by service departments.

A grand promenade, 176 feet long and 32 feet wide (interior) bisects the building from north to south, and connects the two wings with the central section. The ballroom, attached on the south, is 130 by 86 feet (exterior). It is a one story structure containing a stage, and is designed in the Roman Revival style. The dining room, also one story high, is at the other (north) end of the grand promenade. Built at the same time as the central section, it is 110 by 60 feet (exterior), oval in plan, with large windows opening to the floor. The kitchen (87 by 145 feet) is located in the basement of the dining room and is connected to it by ramps.

The exterior of the building is in the Mediterranean Resort style. The interior is handsomely decorated with plaster details in an Adam or Federal style. The grounds (65 acres) occupy a three-quarter mile site on Lake Michigan. They contain, in addition to the club house, the former club house a small trap shooting club house, tennis courts, bowling greens, golf course, horse stables and ring, swimming beach, boat harbor, beach house and maintenance buildings.

## HISTORY

The South Shore Country Club was founded in 1906, by prominent Chicago business leaders, on land obtained from the City of Chicago. The architects of the buildings and grounds were Marshall and Fox, whose works also included the Drake Hotel (destroyed) and many prominent apartment houses. The club was unique not only because it is in the city, but also because of its size and range of activities. The original club house is two and one-half stories tall and of "light" (presumably frame) construction.

Shortly after completing the original club house, a ballroom of concrete construction was erected (in about 1908) on the south side. In 1916 the original club house was moved several hundred feet to the southeast, where it remains in altered use and physically poor condition. The present club house and dining room was then constructed on the site of the original club house, the ballroom remaining in its original position. Among the persons the club hosted through the years were the late Edward, Prince of Wales, Queen Marie of Romania, Prince Albert of Belgium, President Taft, Buffalo Bill Cody, and Will Rogers.

[see continuation sheet]

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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SOUTH SHORE COUNTRY CLUB (Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

7. Description, cont.

The South Shore Country Club is now in the process of disbanding, and the premises have been purchased by the Public Building Commission of Chicago, for the use and ultimate acquisition by the Chicago Park District. The property, which is immediately adjacent (south of) to Frederick Law Olmsted's Jackson Park, site of the Columbian Exposition of 1893, will become part of the park system in Chicago. It will be used for recreation, but the future of the club house is uncertain at this time.

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |                                       |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |  |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1916 (Ballroom c.1908)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | <u>Social &amp; cultural</u>                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | <u>history</u>                                      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  | _____   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

**SIGNIFICANCE**

In the heart of Chicago the existence of the magnificent ensemble of early 20th Century buildings, open spaces, gardens and sports facilities, basically unchanged for almost 60 years, is unique. The main club house, because of its size and architectural treatment is the focal point of the entire premises. Reminiscent of Palm Beach or Newport, it is architecturally a link to the past, and historically important in the social history of Chicago and the nation as a demonstration of a lifestyle that has become extinct, at least in any big city.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Architectural Record, XL (Nov. 1916), 418-432.

Architectural Review (Boston), XXI (Dec. 1916), 210 (photographs).

Original Club House Building: American Architect & Building News, XCI (June 1, 1907), 220.

Inland Architect, XLIX (May, 1907), photograph.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	41°	46'	27"	87°	34'	00"
NE	41°	46'	27"	87°	34'	00"
SE	41°	45'	58"	87°	33'	34"
SW	41°	45'	58"	87°	33'	34"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 65 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Devereux Bowly Jr.

ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: September 1, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: 5437 S. East View Park

CITY OR TOWN: Chicago STATE: Illinois CODE: 17

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: *Anthony J. ...*  
 Title: State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: 10/1/74

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS